



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

BETHESDA 14, MD.

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH
OLiver 6-4000

May 14, 1959

Refer to: NBI-D

Dr. Joshua Lederberg
Stanford University
2398 Sacramento Street
San Francisco 15, California

Dear Dr. Lederberg:

I recently have been in consultation with a private foundation which is interested in the development of an overall research program relating to the problems of mental deficiency. This group is aware of the fact that mental deficiency is a condition with many facets, and that there are areas of research which have relevancy to its prevention. It is their impression that the most effective way to support and encourage research in this general area is to find several key university centers in which there exists a group of scientists whose area of interest relates to the problem, and to strengthen and develop the research program of this group. Their plan is to undertake rather long-term commitments in terms of building, personnel, and equipment.

It has been suggested that in association with your move to Stanford it might be possible that some aspects of your program, or personnel within your institution might be appropriate for support under this foundation.

If you feel that this program might be of interest to you, I should be happy to hear from you and to have your advice as to how we might set up an opportunity to discuss the matter further.

Sincerely yours,

Richard L. Masland

Richard L. Masland, M. D.
Assistant Director
National Institute of Neurological
Diseases and Blindness